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His Majesties
MOST GRACIOUS
S P E E C H
To both Houses of
PARLIAMENT.

My Lords and Gentlemen,



OUR great Misfortune in the Loss of the Duke of *Gloucester*, hath made it absolutely Necessary, that there should be a further Provision for the Succession to the Crown in the Protestant Line after Me and the Princess. The Happiness of the Nation, and the Security of Our Religion, which is Our chiefest Concern, seems so much to depend upon this, that I cannot Doubt but it will meet with a general Concurrence, and I earnestly Recommend it to your early and effectual Consideration.

The Death of the late King of *Spain*, with the Declaration of his Successor to that Monarchy, has made so great an Alteration in the Affairs Abroad, That I must desire you very maturely to Consider their present State; and I make no Doubt but your Resolutions thereupon will be such, as shall be most conducing to the Interest and Safety of *England*, the Preservation of the Protestant Religion in general, and the Peace of all *Europe*.

These things are of such Weight, that I have thought them most proper for the Consideration of a new Parliament, to have the more immediate Sense of the Kingdom in so great a Conjunction.

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I must Desire of you, *Gentlemen of the House of Commons*, such Supplies as you shall judge necessary for the Service of the Current Year, and I must particularly put you in mind of the Deficiencies and Publick Debts occasioned by the late War, that are yet unprovided for.

I am obliged further to Recommend to you, That you would Inspect the Condition of the Fleet, and Consider what Repairs or Augmentations may be requisite for the Navy, which is the great Bulwark of the *English* Nation, and ought most especially in this Conjunction to be put in a good Condition; and that you would also Consider what is proper for the better Security of those Places where the Ships are laid up in Winter.

The Regulation and Improvement of Our Trade is of so Publick Concern, that I hope it will ever have your serious Thoughts; And if you can find proper Means of setting the Poor at work, you will ease your selves of a very great Burthen; And at the same time add so many useful Hands to be employed in Our Manufactures and other Publick Occasions.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I hope there will be such an Agreement and Vigour in the Resolutions you shall take upon the Important Matters now before you, as may make it appear We are firmly United among Our Selves, and in My Opinion nothing can contribute more to Our safety at Home, or to Our being considerable Abroad.

F I N I S.

His Majesties Order

For taking off the CHIMNEY-MONEY,
In His Gracious Message to the Parliament, for the Ease of His Loving Subjects.

With some Observations thereupon.

AS the Almighty by so wonderful a Series of Success, has Placed Our present Sovereign on the Throne, so He has singled out for that Sacred Trust, and the Reception of those wonderous Providences, the Person (if Man can merit from Heaven) the most deserving of them.

A most peculiar Instance of Royal Grace perhaps was never more Conspicuous, then in His late Message to the Parliament.

Friday March the First. 88.

Mr. Wharton Delivered a Message from the King viz.

That His Majesty found the Act for Chimney-Money, was grievous to the Subject, and therefore left it to the Consideration of His Parliament to take off the same, &c.

In Answer to which, was made an Address to the Eff. &c. following.

WE Your Majesty's most Dutiful and Loyal Subjects, the Knights, Citizens, and Burgeses in Parliament assembled, have taken into Consideration Your Majesty's Gracious Message, wherein Your Majesty is pleased to Express Your Great Kindness and Sense of Your Peoples Condition, by Your Tender Consideration, that the Revenue of the Hearth-Money is very Grievous, and are pleased to Agree either to the Regulation of it, or Taking it wholly away.

And as Your Majesty is pleased in this, to Consider the Ease of Your People, we acknowledge our selves Obliged to declare that Your Majesty has fill'd our Hearts with an Entire Satisfaction and Gratitude, by this your most Gracious and Unprecedented Offer.

And we humbly Crave leave to present this Assurance to Your Majesty, that we will make such Grateful and Affectionate Returns, and be so careful for the Support of the Crown, that the World may see, to the Discouraging of your Enemies, and the Satisfaction of all Good Men, that Your Majesty Reigns in the Hearts of Your People, which God grant long to continue.

How infinitely does this Glorious Goodness and Condescension to His People outshine His Predecessors! To instance no farther back then the two last Reigns, Time has been when the National Ease has been so little the consideration of the Crown, that our very Meeting of Parliaments have dwindled into little other Use, than, Give us more of your Money, and less of your Counsels; and scarce one good Act for the benefit of the Subject obtain'd without the tacking of a Money-Bill at the End of it. Nay, and when the English purses would not drain fast enough, we have wretchedly truck'd to France to help out the count. But not to rake into the Ashes of one, or the misfortune of the other, what between the Effeminacy of one Reign, and the Bigotry of the other, what unaccountable sums, and as unaccountably consumed, have been expended, and perverted directly contrary to the Intent of the Original Donation, the great End they were given for?

But this long Sovereign fault amended, (not to mention all the other long blemishes in the Imperial Scutcheon, wash'd off in the Person of our present truly GRACIOUS KING,) as vast a Revenue as the Chimney-money may be, yet considering the Iniquity and Partiality of it, together with the Cryes against it, (for never so uneven a Tax was formed.) He considers the Delight of disburthening His People above the Gratification of filling His Exchequer: And as weighty a Crown Jewel as it is, He thinks His Diadem (on that only score) shines brighter, though not richer, without it. And undoubtedly, this one unprecedented Act of Royal Grace, attended with all the Circumstances of such a Voluntary Tender, (even singly and separate from that unbounded Goodness, and those Accumulated Glories we have so large a future prospect of, from so promising a Reign,) is sufficient of it self alone to stand a REGAL MONUMENT.

And now my Friends and Neighbours, after a hearty Farewel to your Chimney-Money, listen to some few Comforts in store for you. The poor Country Wife may now boyl her Childs Milk, or her Husbands Gruel, without endangering the Confiscation of her Skillet or Crock, for the use of a Chimney to warm it in. The poor Labourer, that out of his Weeks Wages can arrive to a Sabbath-Days Joint of Meat, need not fear the loss of his Spit on Monday, for eating of Roast-Meat on Sunday; with the hearty With too, perhaps at the Tail on't, that the Chimney-Money-Statute-Makers were spitted and roasted after it.

The furnishing his Hearth now, shall not cost him the Unrigging of his Kitchin. Nor shall the Great and (before) Glorious Name of a King, be longer debased to so Vile and Wretched a Voice of Authority, as the Rifling of Cottages, and Plundering of Poverty. The Painted Staff shall now make no more havock among their Dishes and Platters, with the untuneable concert of the Cries of the Poor to make up the Harmony. And that Original Peace-keeper, the Constable, by virtue of a hard-lettred Statute, shall now no more be put to the Office of a French-Dragoon, in breaking open of Doors, and making Military Execution on the Goods and Chattels even of Indigence and Beggars. Those hard-look'd Guests the Collectors, a sort of Visitants as troublesome as a Cat in a Glass-Box, (thanks to Heaven and our good King) are like to have their Reign but short. For that Egypt-Plague, those House Locusts (GOD and Great William be praised) are now departing your Dwellings; and you and your Race for the future may live in hopes of making your Fires burn clear, without melting down your Porridge-pots into the bargain. A long and Everlasting Adieu to that Crown Grind-stone, the Hearth-Statute. The Face of the Poor shall now be Ground no more. And to

God Save King William and Queen Mary.